

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 28 of 1881.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 9th July 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

| No. | Names of newspapers. | Place of publication. | Number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---|
| BENGALI. | | | | |
| <i>Monthly.</i> | | | | |
| 1 | "Bhārat Shramajivī" ... | Calcutta | 2,100 | |
| 2 | "Grāmvartā Prakāshikā" ... | Comercolly | 175 | |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i> | | | | |
| 3 | "Sansodhini" ... | Chittagong | 600 | |
| 4 | "Purva Pratidhwani" ... | Ditto | ..... | 28th June 1881. |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 5 | "Ananda Bazar Patrikā" ... | Calcutta | 700 | 27th ditto. |
| 6 | "Arya Darpan" ... | Ditto | ..... | 8th July 1881. |
| 7 | "Bhārat Bandhu" ... | Ditto | ..... |  |
| 8 | "Bhārat Mihir" ... | Mymensingh | 671 | 28th June 1881. |
| 9 | "Bengal Advertiser" ... | Calcutta | 2,000 | |
| 10 | "Bardwān Sanjivani" ... | Burdwan | 296 | 28th ditto & 5th July 1881. |
| 11 | "Chāruvartā" ... | Sherepore, Mymensing | ..... | 27th ditto. |
| 12 | "Dacca Prakāsh" ... | Dacca | 350 | 3rd July 1881. |
| 13 | "Education Gazette" ... | Hooghly | 745 | 1st ditto. |
| 14 | "Halisahar Prakāshikā" ... | Calcutta | ..... | 2nd ditto. |
| 15 | "Hindu Ranjikā" ... | Beauleah, Rājshāhye... | 200 | 6th ditto. |
| 16 | "Medinī" ... | Midnapore | ..... | 2nd ditto. |
| 17 | "Murshidābād Patrikā" ... | Berhampore | 487 | |
| 18 | "Murshidābād Pratinidhi" ... | Ditto | ..... |  |
| 19 | "Navavibhākar" ... | Calcutta | 850 | 27th June 1881. |
| 20 | "Paridarshak" ... | Sylhet | ..... | 26th ditto. |
| 21 | "Pratikār" ... | Berhampore | 275 | |
| 22 | "Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ... | Kakiniā, Rungpore | 250 | |
| 23 | "Sādhārani" ... | Chinsurah | 500 | 3rd July 1881. |
| 24 | "Sahachar" ... | Calcutta | 500 | 29th June 1881. |
| 25 | "Som Prakāsh" ... | Changripottā, 24-Perghs. | ..... | 4th July 1881. |
| 26 | "Sudhākar" ... | Mymensing | ..... |  |
| 27 | "Sulabha Samāchār" ... | Calcutta | 4,000 | 2nd ditto. |
| 28 | "Srihatta Prakāsh" ... | Sylhet | 440 | |
| 29 | "Tripurā Vartāvaha" ... | Commillah | ..... | 25th June 1881. |
| <i>Daily.</i> | | | | |
| 30 | "Samvād Prabhākar" ... | Calcutta | 700 | 1st to 7th July 1881. |
| 31 | "Samvād Purnachandrodaya" ... | Ditto | 300 | 2nd to 8th ditto. |
| 32 | "Samāchār Chandrikā" ... | Ditto | 625 | 23rd June to 9th July 1881. |
| 33 | "Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā" ... | Ditto | 500 | 6th to 8th July 1881. |
| 34 | "Prabhāti" ... | Ditto | ..... |  |
| 35 | "Samāchār Sudhābarsan" ... | Ditto | ..... |  |
| ENGLISH AND URDU. | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 36 | "Urdu Guide" ... | Ditto | 365 | 22nd July 1881. |
| HINDI. | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 37 | "Behār Bandhu" ... | Bankipore, Patna | 500 | 23rd June 1881. |
| 38 | "Bhārat Mitra" ... | Calcutta | 500 | 30th ditto. |
| 39 | "Sār Sudhānidhi" ... | Ditto | 200 | 27th ditto. |
| 40 | "Uchit Baktā" ... | Ditto | ..... | 2nd July 1881. |
| PERSIAN. | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 41 | "Jām-Jahān-numā" ... | Ditto | 250 | |
| URDU. | | | | |
| <i>Weekly.</i> | | | | |
| 42 | "Akhbār-i-Darussaltanat" ... | Ditto | ..... |  |
| ASSAMESE. | | | | |
| <i>Monthly.</i> | | | | |
| 43 | "Assam Vilāsinī" ... | Sibsagar | ..... |  |

POLITICAL.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
June 27th, 1881.

THE *Navavibhakar*, of the 27th June, refers to a letter recently published in an Indian newspaper, containing strictures on the Russian Government. The writer is one Nishi Kanta Chatterji, a native of Dacca, but who is now residing in Germany. He was for some time Professor of Sanskrit in the University of St. Petersburg, and left Russia in disgust because he found that his movements were being constantly watched by spies. The people of India are not partial to the Russian system of government, and are, both on considerations of self-interest and loyalty, attached to British rule. They are fully conscious that under no other Government could they expect to enjoy as many advantages. That they do nevertheless occasionally complain is owing to their desire to obtain all the privileges which are enjoyed by Englishmen. Love of Russia, or dislike of British rule, never finds a place in their hearts, and all fear of a Russian invasion of India will continue to be groundless so long as this feeling lasts. Let the British Government seek to stimulate the loyalty of the people, and all fears of Cossacks and Siberian bears will be dispelled for ever.

SOM PRAKASH,
July 4th, 1881.

2. Referring to the recurrence of fresh troubles in Afghanistan, the *Som Prakash*, of the 4th July, remarks that, if the British Government does not act as arbitrator between Ayub Khan and Abdur Rahman, and effect a reconciliation between them, but on the contrary allows them to test their strength by an appeal to arms, Afghanistan will soon be converted into a wilderness.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

TRIPURAVARTAVAHA,
June 25th, 1881.

3. Referring to the orders of the Secretary of State for reducing the salaries of the High Court Judges, the *Tripurá Vartāvaha*, of the 25th June, remarks that, in the present depressed condition of the Exchequer, there would be but little room for protest against the retrenchments contemplated; nay the Marquis of Hartington would be entitled to thanks were it not for one circumstance, namely, that whenever there arises any question affecting the interests of both Natives and Europeans, it is the former who suffer. There was formerly no distinction made between the Native and European Puisne Judges of the High Court in the matter of pay, but now the Secretary of State, it would seem, is about to punish the Native Judge for his swarthy complexion by reducing his salary by Rs. 1,200 a month.

TRIPURAVARTAVAHA.

4. The same paper refers to the increase of work in the registry office at Commillah. The number of ministerial officers, which originally stood at nine, was recently reduced to five. Permission, however, was given to the Registrar to engage extra men in cases of emergency. Work has gone on increasing, particularly from the time the High Court, by one of its circular orders, required a decree-holder desirous of seizing any property in execution of a decree to ascertain from the registry office whether it was subject to any encumbrances. The Inspector of Registration, however, quite arbitrarily refuses to sanction the appointment of extra men.

TRIPURAVARTAVAHA.

5. The same paper deprecates the proposal to levy a tax on carriages, horses, &c., used within the limits of the Commillah Municipality. Commillah is not a large town, nor are there many wealthy men in it. The inhabitants, with the exception of a handful of European officials and native pleaders, live mostly in huts, and cannot afford to keep

any conveyances; nor are there to be found a sufficiently large number of hackney carriages in the town. Here carts are generally used for this purpose, as well as for transporting articles of traffic. The imposition of a tax on these carts will necessarily lead to higher rates of cart-hire, which cannot but be felt as a hardship. Already the night-soil and other municipal rates press heavily upon the poor, and it is not wise to make any increase of taxation.

6. The *Navaribhakar*, of the 27th June, dwells in a long article upon the desirability of reducing the salaries and the allowances of the Governors of Bombay and Madras. There is no reason at the present day why these officers should be paid salaries higher than those allowed to the Lieutenant-Governors. The Editor takes the occasion to remark that he cannot agree with the *Englishman* in recommending Sir Ashley Eden for the vacant Governorship of Madras. The Civilians, as administrators, show extreme high-handedness and narrowness of heart.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
June 27th, 1881.

7. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 27th June, dwells upon the cruel and rigorous discipline to which prisoners in the Indian, more particularly the Bengal, jails are subjected by orders of Government. In Bengal Sir Ashley Eden has reduced the prisoners' scale of diet, thus leading to an increase of mortality. The authorities do not still appear satisfied with the results, and demand more work from the prisoners. When, however, owing to weak physique and insufficient food they fail to work as hard as is wished, they are subjected to flogging. But even flogging cannot exact more work from them than they can do, and often relieves them of all sufferings by bringing about death. It therefore behoves the rulers to again ask Mr. Stephen to come out to India and amend the Criminal Procedure Code. He will doubtless be able to provide against the loss to Government caused by the death of a convict, and may, for instance, enact that the relations of a convict who shall have died in a jail shall be made to work in place of the deceased.

ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA,
June 27th, 1881.

8. The same paper is gratified to find that, in spite of the difficulty attending all attempts to benefit India—difficulty caused by the self-interest of Manchester—the Liberal Ministry is doing its utmost to befriend the people of this country. The orders of the Government of India regarding the purchase of Government stores in the local market are an instance in point.

ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA.

9. Referring to the recent transfer of Baboo Satyendra Nath Tagore c. s., of Bombay, from Surat to Karwar, and the misunderstanding between Baboo Ramesh Chundra Dutta, c. s., and the District Superintendent of Police of Bankoora, the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 28th June, remarks that, although the unwillingness of the proud Englishman and Civilian to serve under a native is quite intelligible and natural, still the action of Government in lending it support cannot but cause regret. The evil requires a vigorous treatment at the hands of Government.

BHARAT MIHIR,
June 28th, 1881.

10. The same paper dwells on the invidious distinction, as regards the trial, confinement, and punishment which has been made between European and Native officers in the new Criminal Procedure Code Bill. Section 546 is particularly objected to. Is this justice? exclaims the Editor.

BHARAT MIHIR.

11. The same paper contains an article on the orders of the Secretary of State to reduce the salaries of the Judges of the High Courts in India. The Editor

BHARAT MIHIR.

Proposal to reduce the salaries of the Governors of Bombay and Madras.

Convicts in Indian prisons.

Purchase of Government stores in India.

The European placed under native officers.

The Criminal Procedure Code Bill.

Salaries of the High Court Judges.

advocates a reduction of salaries all round; but is opposed to all plans to weaken the judiciary, which is already weak in comparison with the executive officers of Government. A reduced pay in the case of the Native Judges is greatly open to objection.

SANACHAR,
June 29th, 1881.

12. The *Sahachar*, of the 29th June, is gratified to find that the condition of Indian prisoners has at length attracted the attention of the Secretary of State.

Prison discipline. There has been, under the administration of Dr. Lethbridge, some improvement effected in prison discipline, but much even now remains to be done. The fact is, amendment of the Jail Code must be preceded by a reform of the jailors, a set of unprincipled men who constantly harass the convicts. There should be some provision made for imparting to them a moral education; and the nature of punishment in a jail should be determined by the social position and habits of the criminals before their incarceration. [See paragraph 5 of our Report of the 4th June 1881.]

SOM PRAKASH,
July 4th, 1881.

13. The *Som Prakash*, of the 4th July, adverts to the trouble and harassment to which native passengers, particularly those who cannot read or write, are subjected at the hands of subordinate railway officers. The latter are generally men of no education or social position, and the little authority they possess at once inflates them with pride. The result is they insult passengers with impunity. The trains are fearfully overcrowded. The rule regarding "five on each seat" is a dead-letter. The Editor suggests that a Deputy Magistrate should be deputed for the purpose of enquiring into all cases of maltreatment of native passengers by railway officials; and that the Railway Police, which does not serve any useful purpose whatever, should be abolished, and the money saved by this measure expended on the Telegraph Department, which latter should be, as formerly, made distinct from the traffic branch.

SOM PRAKASH.

14. The same paper directs the attention of Government to the desirability of establishing punchayets in every five or six villages, which should be formed into a union for the purpose. Educated and honest residents of the localities, who do not carry on any money transactions therein, should be appointed as punchayets, and should be vested with authority to try all cases, small as well as great. The petitions and other papers should be duly stamped, thus securing Government against loss of revenue. The experiment may at least be tried in those places where the services of educated men are available for this purpose. The suggestion, if adopted, will make justice accessible to many who are now, owing to the expensiveness of litigation and prevalence of perjury, denied it.

SOM PRAKASH.

15. The same paper is exceedingly gratified to find that the Postal Department is gradually making its operations really simple and effective, thus promoting the convenience of the public in a remarkable measure; and yet, compared with the advantages conferred by it, the public pays but little towards the support of this great Department of the State. Indeed, there is no other Department which costs so little and does so much work. The people pay the municipal rates and the road cess, but obtain very little good in return.

BHARAT MITRA,
June 30th, 1881.

16. The *Bharat Mitra*, of the 30th June, points out the unsoundness of the clamour raised by certain persons against the continuance of the Government monopoly in opium. It is all very well to urge Government to keep itself aloof from this immoral traffic, but how will the loss of revenue that will thus be caused be made good?

EDUCATION.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
June 26th, 1881.

The Sibpore Engineering College.

17. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Navavibhakar*, of the 25th June, headed the "Surrender of the Sibpore Mutineers :"—The fate of the newly-established Engineering College at Sibpore has for the present proved propitious, the tempest raised by the rulers in a teapot has for the present subsided, and the mutiny of the Bengali students of the College has at length been suppressed! The mutiny, which originated with foolish Srish Chandra, gathered force from the action of Mr. Fouracres, received an impetus from the writings of Native Editors, and involved the fate of a number of native students, has been by order of Sir Ashley Eden quelled by Mr. Croft with great difficulty. Thus has Bengal been saved from a great calamity! The troubles are now at an end; Srish Chandra has been saved; Mr. Fouracres' hands have been strengthened; the lives of the students spared; Mr. Croft's prestige enhanced; and Sir Ashley Eden, who hurled his thunderbolts on the devoted heads of the boys, is victorious. His Honor may now, in the company of Mr. Croft, merrily spend his time in his retreat in the hills. Native Editors may now dismiss their anxiety; the thought that Jupiter's thunderbolt has not smashed them will but aggravate their pride and impudence, and they will continue unchecked to publish their impertinences. So long as they remain in this world, they must always live in dread of Jupiter's thunderbolts; but, whether it be that their heads are hard, or that the thunder has lost its destructive force, they need no longer dread its effects. It behoves Jupiter to restrain himself; the period of his sovereignty is drawing to a close.

The Bengali students of the Sibpore Engineering College banded themselves for the purpose of getting their teacher and guide humiliated and removed from his post. That the lightest punishment possible has been inflicted upon them for this very grave offence, that they have been allowed to obtain re-admission, although their apology was not such as the Director had wished it to be, is a matter for which they should hold themselves uncommonly fortunate. Thanks to the Director that through the mercy of the Lieutenant-Governor their present and future prospects have been saved, is a circumstance for which the sixty million people of this province are blessing them with uplifted hands. The Editor also joins in this benediction.

This is not the first instance of rudeness and insubordination on the part of Bengali students that has yet come to light; they have been for a long time past known as being accustomed to conspire against their teachers. Mr. Croft has ransacked the old records of his office, and found out four or five precedents. Making a joint memorial is a heinous offence! It was with a view to prevent the commission of this offence that, on the 19th October 1876, the Governor-General passed an order prohibiting joint memorials. Since that time public officers have not been allowed to make such memorials. That an act which is prohibited in the case of even the highest and the most sapient public officers should be particularly prohibited in the case of boys in public schools is a position which requires no proof, and may, it would seem, be regarded as axiomatic. Considering that the boys in the schools constitute the rising generation, and also in view of the fact that Nihilism in Russia counts its followers mostly among the students in that country, Mr. Croft has acted wisely by following the example of the Russian Minister of Education, and nipping in the bud the mutiny of the Sibpore students. There was no knowing that what was being witnessed in St. Petersburg might not take place at Sibpore also! The Director, like certain of his predecessors, has once more become the means of maintaining British sovereignty in Bengal.

Man lives to learn, and the people of this province are thankful to the Director and his master Sir Ashley Eden for revealing to them the important and complicated truth that no school can go on with its work where there is no discipline. His Honor has directed that a circular should be issued with a view to impress upon the minds of the teachers the necessity of maintaining discipline. It is not, however, yet known whether a civilian will be appointed for this purpose. That Bengali students, notorious for their obedient and respectful behaviour to their teachers, ever needed such a lesson, was never before thought of. The punishment awarded to the students has been extremely light (!) considering the offence they had committed. It is not true that native papers have by their writings fomented the disaffection of the students. The former have simply done their duty; and it is gratifying to observe that the discussion in their columns, which was evoked by this Sibpore affair, has had this effect, that a better state of things will now be rendered possible. Native papers have not fomented race antagonism. They have stated the facts as regards the distinction which was made by the authorities of the College between the Eurasian and native students. Sir Ashley Eden has taken the boys to task for their ingratitude. Now, it seems to us that it is simply impossible for a paid teacher to evoke the gratitude of his pupils, if he does not treat them with affection and kindness. Native Editors fully recognize the value of discipline, but what they would insist upon is that this discipline should be tempered by an affectionate treatment. Where this element exists, the students do not feel themselves insulted, even if they are severely reprovved by their teachers. Mr. Sutcliffe and many other European professors thus treated their students. Unfortunately the present class of European teachers lack all sympathy for their pupils, and only work because they are paid. The public believe that Mr. Fouracres is a man of this stamp, and that it would have been enough if his authority had been upheld nominally. There was no necessity for carrying things so far. There was no necessity for Mr. Croft's advocacy supported by precedents, none for Sir Ashley Eden's Resolution expressing sympathy, or for his forgetting his own dignity and official position to uphold the authority of his favourite Education Minister and of Mr. Fouracres. There was no necessity for the ruler of sixty millions of men to indulge in freaks of power by striking a few fickle-minded school-boys, or to bandy words in an official Resolution with a particular newspaper. Instead of wasting so much time and energy, and occupying so much space in the pages of the *Calcutta Gazette*, the authorities could have usefully inculcated upon Mr. Fouracres the duty of extending a sympathetic and kind treatment to his students.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
June 27th, 1881.

18. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 27th June, remarks, in reference to the same subject, that the Resolution of Government contains severe strictures upon the conduct of the boys of the Sibpore College, and shows that, occasionally under the influence of anger, Sir Ashley Eden forgets his official position. One is sorry to see Mr. Mackenzie heaping abuses upon the heads of the students, as if they were his equals. The whole thing looks as if Government intended to break a butterfly upon the wheel. Sir Ashley Eden has found the students guilty, and yet ordered the construction of a new house for their accommodation, and addition of new names to the list of visitors of the College. Does not this show that the complaints made by them were to a considerable extent well founded? And if that were the case, was it not wrong to inflict punishment upon them? Does it not behove the authorities to punish such a model teacher as Mr. Fouracres?

Sibpore Engineering College.

19. On the same subject, the *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 28th June, makes similar observations.

BHARAT MIHIR,
June 28th, 1881.

Sibpore Engineering College.

20. The *Sādhārānī*, of the 3rd May, remarks, in reference to the same subject, that, although the students have not been able to hold on, still the agitation made by them has been exceedingly beneficial. The authorities, although they may not express their convictions, have been doubtless convinced of the extent to which high-handed teachers not unoften maltreat their pupils. Mr. Fouracres also has suffered great anxiety. As to the decision itself passed by Government, there is not much to be said. Even if Government had abolished the College, would protests have been of the least avail? In all disputes between teachers and pupils, the authority of the former should doubtless be vindicated; but there is a limit to everything. What Government should have done was to bring about a reconciliation between the parties. Be that as it may, this Sibpore incident has taught the people not a few lessons, which, but for it, would have remained unlearnt.

SADHARANI,
July 3rd, 1881.

Sibpore Engineering College.

21. Referring to the same subject, the *Sār Sudhānidhi*, of the 27th June, observes that it appears, from the Resolution of Government on the mutiny of the students of the Sibpore College recently published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, that the prospects of education in this country are really enveloped in gloom. It is strange that, although the Lieutenant-Governor admits that Mr. Fouracres assaulted Srish Chandra, he yet blames the students for their insubordination. As for His Honor's strictures upon the native papers, they are simply the outcome of his dislike of their writings. Enforcement of discipline in schools will henceforth mean the infliction of corporal punishment upon the students, and the student who bears it in silence will receive encouragement. The result of all this will be that the Sibpore College will gradually lose in popularity and ultimately become a failure.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
June 27th, 1881.

Sibpore Engineering College.

22. The *Bhārat Mitra*, of the 30th June, observes that the decision of Government in this case has not given satisfaction. The public, rightly or wrongly, do not believe the facts as set forth by Mr. Croft. The account of the proceedings would have commanded confidence if there were independent non-official members on the Commission.

BHARAT MITRA,
June 30th, 1881.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 9th July 1881.

